

Minutes, September 26, 1908

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1331 Conn. Ave. Washington, D.C. Sept. 26, 1908.

Dr. Bell read the minutes of the former meeting, which were approved, there being no objection offered to them.

Dr. Bell: The special object of this present meeting is first to give Mr. Edward Selfridge an idea of what the interests his son Thomas E. Selfridge had in this association. There may be property rights associated with him. The thing has no value at present. It may be that some of the work of this Association may become valuable and therefore it becomes necessary to protect the rights of Mr. Selfridge. I thought, therefore, on this occasion that it would be very proper to give Mr. Selfridge some account of the object of this Association, how it came into existence and what the rights of his son are in the matter. And it is more especially necessary to do this because by our original article of association the Association comes to an end on the 30th day of September of this year, unless other plans unanimously approved by the members are adopted.

Of course the death of Lieutenant Selfridge renders it impossible to obtain a unanimous action of the interests involved, and it seems therefore wise that we should take advantage of the presence of Mr. Selfridge here to have Lieut. Selfridge's interests represented, and by this means 2 of accepting the vote of Mr. E.A. Selfridge as the legal representative of Thomas E. Selfridge, that we might have the unanimous action of the Association.

Now in regard to the origin of the Association. You know that as the results of my experiments with large tetrahedral structures I was very anxious to carry on the work to the point of trying the experiment of propelling one of these structures by its own motive power to carry a man and make an aerodome of it, and when I came to look over the matter I found I did not have sufficient knowledge to risk sending a man up as I was not

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sure of the engineering points involved. So I associated with myself two engineers, Mr. McCurdy and Mr. Baldwin, so that I might have the advantage of their technical knowledge of engineering. Then when we came together we still found that we did not have among the whole of us the knowledge necessary to make an areodome. We did not have an expert knowledge of the matters involved motors, and we sought the advice of Mr. Curtis, probably the greatest motor expert in the country. Then a young man appeared— an officer of the U.S.Army, Lieutenant Thomas E. Selfridge, who expressed a great deal of interest in our experiments and came to see me saying that he would like to go to Novescotia and witness these experiments in the interest of the U. S. Army. I found that he had devoted a great deal of attention to the subject and in fact had made a special study of aviation and what was being done in relation to heavier-than-air machines in all parts of the world, with a 3 view that when the time came that the U. S. Government should require flying machines in the army that there should be at least one officer who had made an expert study of the whole subject. I was very much pleased to receive Lieutenant Selfridge, and after his suggestion I wrote a letter to the President introducing Mr. Selfridge and recommending his detail to Novescotia. The President did so. He was detailed to Novescotia to observe our experiments there in the interests of the U. S. Army.

We had in Novescotia then under my roof there, myself, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. McCurdy, Mr. Curtis and Lieutenant Selfridge, the first three acting as my assistants and the fourth as the observer for the U. S. Army. Mrs. Bell was very much struck at the idea of an elderly man surrounded by young men of brilliant ability and experts. She thought there were very great possibilities for the development of something good to the world in aviation. She thought too that by having these young men constantly associated with me that after I had passed away that the interests of my spirit might remain with them. And so she suggested that instead of these young men being my assistants that we should come together in an association on equal terms that would develop their individuality. Of course it was necessary to supply some means by which experiments could be carried on, and Mrs. Bell was so enthusiastic over the matter that she brought to our attention the fact that

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she had a piece of property that did not belong 4 to me— about the only thing she had that she did not get from me— here in Washington that was given to her by her father a great many years ago and is now gradually increasing in value. She said that she would like to give to me that piece of land, or the value of it, or to the association as soon as we formed ourselves into an association. So that it was arranged that she should support these experiments. I did not like to have it an unlimited amount, and so it was fixed that the Association should last for one year ending September 30, 1908. It was organized in Halifax in October 1907; and that the association should call upon Mrs. Bell by formal requisition from time to time as money was required up to a limit of \$20,000. If it was necessary to extend it of course it could be extended in the future.

When I came to look around upon the young men associated with me I found that they were all men of independent mines; they were not men fitted to me mere assistants. They all had their own ideas of aerial locomotion, And so we entered into this association in which we had our original articles of organization. There was one peculiar feature about us and that is that none of us were pecuniarily interested in any way. Mrs. Bell, having the good of the cause at heart and for affection for these young men, offered to give this money, so that there was nothing pecu l n i a r y in the whole matter. 5 When we came together our object was simply as we expressed it in three words which were given to us by Lieutenant Selfridge himself, to get into the air by any means we could. Now in order to do that of course we came together first to help me with my tetrahedral structures, and then the idea was that we should work conjointly at each others ideas and that each man should have an opportunity to show what there was in him. We worked at our tetrahedral structure until the middle of December 1907, when we constructed the Signet, in which Lieut. Selfridge made an ascent. Then subsequently the Signet was wrecked by being dragged through the water by a steamboat. It had been reported in some of the newspapers that Lieut. Selfridge had another fall before this accident in which he lost his life, but that is entirely a mistake. He had no fall; he simply came down gradually. It was reported in some Boston papers that he had another fall in Mr. Bell's tetrahedral kite

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which made a sudden dive and then dove 168 feet in to the waters of the lake, being an article written by his cousin. That is a mistake. It was a very gradual descent. The only objection was that he got wet. There could not have been a more beautiful descent. It was so gradual that he, having the water hidden from him, came down as gently as a feather and did not know that he had reached fallen until the water came in through the crevasses. As no signal had been given to the steamer to stop and as we had arrangements made for letting go the tow line at the other end until some signal had been made by him to hold in he was in the water before he knew it. I would not call that a fall. The destruction of the Signet was not by any means due to anything that happened in the air but was purely due to the structure being towed at full speed through rough water. Of course, not being designed for that, the structure broke.

The destruction of the Signet in 1907 made an interruption in the experiments with tetrahedral structures. It was necessary to postpone all further work at Beirm Bhreagh until the destruction in spring of 1908. So we decided then in December 1907, that some of the ideas of the other members should be made predominant and that the tetrahedral structures should be subordinate until we could come up to Beirm Bhreagh again. And as Lieut. Selfridge had risked his life in my machine he felt that he should be the first to have the experiment made on his own account, and so he decided with the other members that they would make a series of experiments repeating the successful experiments of others. Instead of starting upon a new tack in Hammondsport they would start a gliding machine as the Wright brothers and others had done, and then go on from that and look over all the machines accessible (very little was known of the Wright brothers) And so the Association commenced in Hammondsport to work a gliding machine, which was made, and all the members except myself made many glides, making a little experiment in gliding flight. Then 7 plans were made for the construction of an aerodome in accordance with the plans of Lieut. Selfridge. This aerodome—my tetrahedral aerodome not having been completed to the aerodome stage—this became our No. 1, which was known as Selfridge's Red Wing.

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Mr. Selfridge: I did not know that Tom took credit for that altogether, but thought that these other men were associated with him.

Mr. Bell: There has been joint work each man being associated, but the plans of the Red Wing were to be approved by him. As a matter of fact Mr. Baldwin had more to do with it in the matter of details than Lieut. Selfridge. Everything was to be done to be approved by him.

We made several successful experiments with the aerodrome, and then it was smashed without any injury to the aviator or the engine. So we went to work then upon the second aerodome, our aerodome No. 2, which was to be made in accordance with the plans of Mr. Baldwin. So that was known as Baldwin's White Wing. That also after several successful flights was broken, and then the Association went to work on the third aerodome No. 3, which was to be in accordance with the plans approved by Mr. Curtis, and he chose the name "June Bug".

Mr. Selfridge: Mr. Curtis did not ascend successfully with the June Bug, did he?

Prof. Bell: Oh, no, nothing has been done. It has gone by his name. Mr. Curtis did a good deal more in relation to the June Bug than perhaps Lieut. Selfridge did ordinarily in relation to his. Then it was a conjoint matter.

Mr. Selfridge: Tom told me that he wished me to understand that these young men that were associated with him were acting conjointly with him that and that he could not say that anything was his own.

Prof. Bell: I was in Washington a great portion of the time and the only assistance that I could give would be through correspondence, but a number of ideas were contributed in that way. The idea of the Association was conjoint action. As a matter of fact the chief part of the designing of all these aerodomes of course was done by the Chief Engineer of the

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Association, Mr. Baldwin. Mr. Curtis was the man who carried them out. He was the official director of experiments.

So No. 3 was completed and turned out to be very successful, and with the experience gained in the management of the other two aerodomes, by the way, which have not yet been smashed, which are still in existence, and one of which had the honor of carrying off the Scientific American trophy for heavier-than-air machines by flying the distance of one kilometer in a straight line— as a matter of fact we went very near a mile. We had not expected to have been able to construct three aerodomes in Hammondsport. It has been our intention when navigation opened to return to Novescotia and carry on the tetrahedral experiments. But then it unfortunately happened that Mrs. Bell became seriously ill, so it 9 so it was impossible for me to go to Nevescotia. It occurred to me that this was an opportunity for letting all these younger members come in for their chance. And so we went on We had the No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3. And so without waiting for the des con truction of No. 3 we want ed only to give Mr. McCurdy his chance by making No. 4, which is now completed and ready for trial; and that is our No. 4 “The Silver Dart”. We still have No. 3. They are using No. 3 for experiments with details in regard to parts that are to be used on No. 4. and in that way testing the improvements before they are actually constructed.

Mr. McCurdy: It is all finished except the motor.

Mr. Bell: Then a moment after Mr. McCurdy has had sufficient time to test out this machine he adjourns to Novescotia so that I might have the help of all the members accompanying the experiment with the tetrahedral structures. So that the Association gradually divided, two members— one to Novescotia, Baldwin and myself, two remaining in Hammondsport— Curtis and McCurdy. Lieutenant Selfridge was ordered to Washington by the Government and connected with the Signal Service, so that we lost his connection with us. Then in order to keep in touch with one another so that we might still continue co-operative work, we started the issuing of bulletins of the A.E.A. so that what was being done in Hammondsport should be known to those in Novescotia, and what was being

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done in 10 Novescotia should be known to members in Hammondsport; there should be an opportunity for free interchange of ideas and thereby carry out the idea of joint work. So we have those four coming up to the Silver Dart which has been completed but not tried. In the mean time we are going ahead in Novescotia with tetrahedral structure. We have No. 5 completed,—The large aerodome of the tetrahedral variety on the general model of the Signet, carrying out the experiments with the Signet by putting the motor on board as well as a man and seeing what would result— simply experimental work. There are two varieties of tetrahedral structures that have been very successful in my hands as kites. One is used as a _ tetrahedral structure in which an oblique surface is used. The great disadvantage of the structure is that the lifting power of the oblique surface is so much inferior to the same surface horizontal. There are two advantages; One is that kite structures of this oblique surface will, when you have large enough wheels , cells, seem to be the best automatically balanced in the air. This is so that no one who sees a large tetrahedral structure flying steadily in a supporting breeze can help expressing the wish that the expenditure should be made to see if that could be done in an aerodome. If you could apply motive power to such a structure as that it would be a very safe means of making aerodomes in which people could practice. Meantime skill and experience count for a good 11 deal. But how can you account for great skill if a fatal accident occurs. You cannot help when you see the stable structures in the air, thinking that it would be a great thing to have them in the form of an aerodome. We are going ahead and we will at all events get data that will be of value. The next will be our improved aerodome No. 5. I have not yet named it. There is still another to complete the experiment. It will be the utilization of another form of tetrahedral kite which was developed as the result of my attempts to remedy the deficient lifting power of oblique surfaces by combining horizontal surfaces with them. The result has been a very remarkable kite structure. It possesses, however, all the instability of the ordinary structures.

Mr. Selfridge: That suggested itself to you on the results of the first experiment.

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Mr. Bell: To remedy the deficient lifting power. And so we thought we would use the tetrahedral structure itself as a basis on which to put the aeroplane of the ordinary variety and combine them with oblique surfaces, and it resulted in a kite that flew in a very remarkable manner. It resembled a soaring bird in the air, and in fact it looked so promising that in accordance with my custom of naming my products, I gave it the name of The Iona Kite. The ancient Greeks possessed two kinds of birds, the Oionos and the Oinithes. I did not care to try this itself in the form of an aerodome because what I was looking for was a safe aerodome. I recognize that aerodomes containing the Oionos frame will have all the instability of the ordinary aerodome. 12 But the lifting power seems to be superior to the ordinary surfaces, just as it is superior to the ordinary horizontal surface kites, and they are superior to the regular tetrahedral form in lifting power. So I am very anxious to have their trial certainly do as well and may be beyond the ordinary structures. So Mr. Baldwin has undertaken to apply this structure in the aerodome of a new class, which will remedy whatever dangers there may be in using the structure that is known to be unstable. You start from the water, and instead of being flown as a kite it is started from the water, and it is expected that it will be able to get up speed sufficient to rise from water into air, so that we will never be able to get to a very great height. That is the safest mode of getting into the air. The structure has no more instability than any of the others. It is a form that I would not hesitate to go into myself. I would hesitate to ever go up with the Hammondsport aerodomes. but have no hesitancy in going up in this one. This is our aerodome No. 6. Mr. Baldwin has built a boat which gives very great promises, which when propelled by an aerial propeller makes now fifteen miles an hour and only utilizes a fraction of the horse power, which I think is unprecedented for a motor being driven by an aerial propeller. Mr. Baldwin proposes to put hydroplanes and then the Iona structure. It is expected to rise up out of the water and then be supported in the air. If we are successful in that 13 it will be an epoch-making machine.

That is the extent to which our plans have gone. But now on account of Mrs. Bell's illness it was so late before we could get up to Nova Scotia that experiments really could not

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be commenced until the 1st of August, so it resulted that these structures are not in condition to be tried before the day comes for the Association comes to an end, unless some unanimous action is taken. We expected to have met in Novescotia on the 30th of September, and now comes this sad accident to the Wright brothers' aeroplane, which has deprived us not only of our fellow member Lieutenant Selfridge, but throws a damper on our work. So now we have reached this point. Have you got the original order of organization, Mr. Curtis?

Mr. Curtis: Yes, sir.

Mr. Bell: For Mr. Selfridge's information I will say that we have been carrying on these experiments purely in the interests of aviation without any idea of reward or gain.

Mr. Selfridge: Eliminating the Commercial aspect.

Mr. Bell: Eliminating the commercial aspect. Mrs. Bell has supplied us with about \$20,000, also without any hope of reward. But it occurred to me in talking with the members that of course we cannot carry on experiments of this sort without striking some new things, and if we do strike anything of a patentable nature it is our idea that we should patent it. The funds of the Association cannot be available for that purpose as Mrs. Bell only gave them for experimental purposes. 14 We cannot take these funds for litigation or for patents. As I look upon it the patents belong to the commercial stage of development, not the experimental, and should be paid for by any company taking up patents. So the funds of the Association cannot be used for patents or litigation.

Mr. Selfridge: Then you have already applied for patents?

Mr. Bell: No, we have applied for no patents yet. However, we thought we would have an examination made. We are working upon a subject that many hundreds of people have been working at and we thought we would come into collision with any number of patents, and it requires first an examination. We have had an examination made to see first of all

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whether there is anything that we might rightfully claim, so that we came in contact with lots of people and it is very problematical how far, even if we should develop any new ideas, that we could get any patents that are of value.

Mr. Selfridge: You may be trespassing on some other person's property

Mr. Bell: Yes. Therefore I feel that it would not be advisable to do anything in patents except through another organization not our own, that should be a special an auxiliary organization, either a special organization or some company already existing, to whom we could sell any interests we might have in anything that is patentable. I have taken the first steps. We are now having an examination made of patents.

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We do not know what other people are doing. An examination is being made and from the reports given to us it is probable that we may be able to get patents. What value they may be we cannot tell. It is more for details— things of that sort. In fact none of the members entered into this idea with the hope of making any money. But if money was to be made out of it at any time the members would share equally. A resolution was passed that if any money was to be made out of anything, which was problematical, that the money donated to the Association by Mrs. Bell should receive some recognition. I do not remember now exactly what the words were. I think the Association decided to give Mrs. Bell one per cent in whatever proceeds there might be for every thousand dollars donated. She limited her contribution to \$20,000, and I think we will have expended on the 30th of September about that sum. Will it exceed that?

Mr. McCurdy: It may a little bit.

Mr. Bell: Then I am authorized by Mrs. Bell to say that if the Association desires to go on for another six months until March 31st that they may call upon her for continued funds as may be required up to \$10,000 more. That would make her total contribution \$30,000. She will not guarantee to give any more. That will give \$10,000 for the next six months.

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There comes in the question of property rights, according to the action of the Association. Of course it may mean nothing at all. But we will suppose that at some time something 16 may prove to be of value, for I cannot help remembering that a great many said the telephone meant nothing. We cannot go on without the unanimous consent and approval of those who represent Lieutenant Selfridge. You see here first of all according to the resolution of the Association the idea would be this: First an examination is made to see whether we have got anything to patent. If we have we go ahead and get patents out for the joint inventions of the Association. Then as these patents will have commercial value we appoint a trustee. (We want to make a note of any point on which unanimous action is required.) The appointment of a trustee, we have got to take that down. So these patents will be placed in the hands of a trustee, would be disposed of by him. He would have the power to dispose of these either through a company or in any way that seemed to him best for the interests of the Association, and he would distribute the proceeds among the members according to our agreement, which would mean that, on the basis of Mrs. Bell's \$20,000, that first of all twenty percent of the proceeds, whatever they might be, would have to be handed over to Mrs. Bell by the trustee. We will suppose for a moment that something valuable should come out of it. The first 20% would be turned over to Mrs. Bell and then the balance would be divided among the members equally. Lieutenant Selfridge would receive one-fifth. Now if we continue we would have probably \$30,000, which would mean that 30% would be given to Mrs. Bell for her cash contribution and only the remainder divided, so that that would reduce the amount received, if 17 there was anything received by Lieutenant Selfridge. We cannot do that without your consent. So that it seemed to me that it was very important that while we had the opportunity we should have a meeting here today of our surviving members of the Association and the representative of Lieut. Thomas E. Selfridge.

Mr. Selfridge: Do I understand that Mrs. Bell's wishes made this as a contribution for the benefit of science, but that out of anything realized from the sales Mrs. Bell is to receive 20%?

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Mr. Bell: It was the action of the Association, not of herself.

Mr. Selfridge: Of course Mrs. Bell is entitled to it absolutely and it is nothing more than an acknowledgement of her good will in recognizing the Association by contributing toward it.

Mr. Bell: Yes, sir.

Mr. Selfridge: But Mrs. Bell did not expect any remuneration in return?

Mr. Bell: No. She said she had a piece of property that she never gained anything from. It was done with the expectation that there is no money in this thing at all. However, the Association should recognize that if there should be any proceeds from these things that it would only be right that some return should be made to her.

Now the point that I wish to see in our original article of agreement which is before me here— we have this clause: 18 “This agreement can only be modified by unanimous vote of the undersigned.”

Now the death of Lieutenant Selfridge prevents that unanimous vote, so that it seems that one of the first things we have to do is to go over that so that we can do something. Our hands are tied under this action. There is no help for it. The vote of the Association comes to an end on the 30th day of September 1908, and except by the help of Lieutenant Mr. E. A. Selfridge we cannot go ahead. That is the main business we have to do today.

I have received a letter from Mrs. Bell. It is really quite a touching letter. I will read what she says about Tom. It will give us an idea of what she thought of him. She says:

“I cannot get over tom's being taken. I cannot realize it. It does not seem possible. Is it not heartrending? Yet it is better for him than to die as poor Langly did. He was so happy. And why not? I know he would have said he was having the time of his life. Therefore he must have realized his danger. In those last seconds he would still hope to escape and

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he had no time for unavailing regrets. It was the happiest way death could have come to him. But why need it? to come now when he was so ready to put to his country's use all the results of his long patient preparation? I feel that we never realized how dear and good he was, as I find all the old women here heartbroken for his dear sake. He was so good to them. And what higher testimonial could a young fellow have. How few 19 turn aside in their gay happy lives to be kind to the broken old women with nothing attractive about them but that they are women and he a knightly boy. I almost think that no body ever did so many little things for me as he. Others have loved me more of course, but he just saw the little things, pushing up my chair at table and moving the screen to shut off drafts—all so quietly and unobtrusively that no one noticed. I am so sorry for you in this breaking up of your beautiful association. It was beautiful and the memory of it will endure: Bell, Curtis, Baldwin, Selfridge and McCurdy.— It was indeed a brilliant cotery, as one paper said. Do anything you think best about the future, but let the A.E.A. be only those to the end and then take some other name. Give my love to them all and let's hold tight together, all the tighter for the one that is gone. Casey called me the little mother of us all, and so I want to be. I love all our boys and there cannot be any others just the same.”

Mr. Selfridge: Beautiful, beautiful expression.

Mr. Bell: I think it is a beautiful letter. I will ask Mr. McCurdy to make copies of this extract and give them to Mrs. Selfridge. That shows the spirit of Mrs. Bell in this whole matter and her desire that the Association shall continue its organization just as it is.

I think we had better come down to business here. I had not had any opportunity of preparing this with my friends of the Association, but I will read what I had roughly drafted as a preliminary to it in connection with it. We cannot legally 20 take any action in regard to perpetuating the Association or even to continue it beyond the 30th of September without recognizing the interests of Lieutenant Thomas E. Selfridge. Therefore it seems to me that some resolution of this character ought to be adopted. It may not be necessary to put it

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in this formal way. We may be dealing with something that is of no value whatever. I had prepared these two resolutions:

(1) RESOLVED, That the legal representative of the heirs of our deceased member, Lieutenant Thomas E. Selfridge, shall have the right to attend any of the meetings of the Association and vote at such meetings in the name and stead of the late Thomas E. Selfridge: and that in all matters requiring the unanimous consent of the members that the consent of the said representative of the late Thomas E. Selfridge shall be required.

(2) RESOLVED, That the Association recognize Mr. Edward A. Selfridge, of No. 2615 California Street, San Francisco, Cal. as the legal representative of the late Thomas E. Selfridge.

I would then propose that we go on and make resolutions on which unanimous consent is required, which would be to the continuation of the Association and the appointment of a trustee. I will submit those two resolutions and would like to know what you think of them?

The question being put, the resolutions were unanimously carried.

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Mr. Bell: RESOLVED. That the Aerial Experiment Association be continued under its present organization for another period of six months ending March 31, 1909.

Unless other plans are unanimously adopted it shall come to an end on the 30th of September 1908. Under present conditions we have not provided for its extension. Now we are planning that it shall last another six months, and it would be well to add a proviso so that it might be continued by unanimous consent. This present provision would limit it to March 31st just as it is.

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Mr. Selfridge: All it requires is unanimous consent to continue it from period to period as you think proper. It is simply a repetition of your original motion or article, is it not, that nothing must be done except by unanimous consent?

Mr. Bell: No, not "nothing", but certain points. The fundamental agreement was not to be modified.

(At this point Mr. Bell read official minutes from book)

The question being put, the resolution was unanimously carried, the vote being as follows:

Mr. Bell, aye; Mr. Curtis, aye; Mr. McCurdy, aye:

Lieut. Thomas E. Selfridge by E.A. Selfridge, aye:

Mr. Baldwin, aye.

Mr. Bell: is there anything further we will require in relation to that? There is one other matter. We have hitherto had \$20,000, but we will require more. We have agreed to give Mrs. Bell an interest of one percent per thousand dollars contributed by her. I think we also ought to pass a resolution 22 to the effect that we will continue that for any further contribution.

Mr. Selfridge: RESOLVED, That Mrs. Bell be given one per cent interest in all proceeds resulting from the work of the association for every thousand dollars she contributes.

Mr. Bell: I would like to bring to your attention the question of the appointment of a trustee for the Association. We have not got anything to put in trust yet. Now the Association cannot pay for patents. That is a matter that would belong to a company. That is the commercial stage. The money that is given is for experimental purposes. And yet you cannot get any company to give you anything except for patents. If there is anything to be gotten out of the inventions of the Association that is the only course to take. I have taken

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the matter in my hands. I have ordered a patent investigation to be made and submitted our work to a firm here, Messrs. Lewis and Massey. They are now making an examination of the patents to see whether we have got anything to patent. I am advancing the costs and if we have got anything that is patentable we will have that patent taken out and the expenses will be charged to any other association hereafter formed.

Mr. Curtis: I move that Mr. Bell be made the trustee.

Mr. Bell: No, I am not a business man. Mr. Charles Bell has never shown any very great interest in this whole subject. I approached him a long time ago when the organization was formed. I did not find that he showed any very great interest in the matter and did not like to go to him. He would be an admirable man for the purpose. Since the flight of the Wright Brothers he has changed right around and is very much interested in this whole matter. I therefore had an opportunity to talk to him the other day and asked him what his attitude would be in case we should ask him to be a trustee. He said he would be glad to be a trustee if desired, but that it would not be proper for him to organize any company. All he could undertake would be to hold the property as a trustee for the Association and see that it was disposed of in accordance with our articles of agreement, resolutions, etc. Since then in talking over the matter with Mr. Cameron he suggested the idea that it might be a good plan to appoint the American Security and Trust Company as trustee rather than Charles Bell, because the Trust Company will not die while the individual may. But at the present time we have not got anything to give; it is all problematical. It might not amount to a row of pins to go through the formality of asking a trust company to accept nothing. I think it rather inadvisable. The only thing is that if Mr. Bell becomes the trustee he cannot undertake to take any action, to organize any company of anything of that sort. It seems to me that it would be a very great advantage to have him interested from his position as head of the American Security & Trust Company, from his intimate knowledge of men of wealth. He is the man of all others who can find promoters. It would have his good will. That is a matter in which Mr. Selfridge's interests should be protected and

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therefore it is a matter that might properly come up to-day. I ask Mr. Curtis from his contact with business men, to know whether 24 he has any ideas on the subject?

Mr. Curtis: I know of no better plan than to secure Mr. Charles Bell to act as Trustee, if we can.

Mr. Bell: I think it would be a good plan to appoint him as trustee and to make it so that we could transfer it to the Trust Company if we got anything of value. That could be done without any difficulty.

Mr. McCurdy: Could it be assigned to the Trust Company, they to act through him?

Mr. Bell: Yes. But at all events the time has not been reached when we can go to the Trust Company as we have not yet anything of any value.

Mr. Baldwin: Shall we take up the matter of the appointment of the trustee? We have not anything to hand to him, but we have Mr. Selfridge here and it is evidently a matter that requires his consent?

Mr. Bell: It is well to provide for it.

Mr. Selfridge: Of course any action of that kind would receive my endorsement whether I was present or not. Why not allow that power to rest with the President in the event that necessity exists to assign appoint a trustee to handle the resources or the benefits of the Association; that it should be left to the presiding officer, Mr. Alexander Graham Bell to appoint a trustee?

(The above proposition being rejected, the following resolution was offered by Mr. Baldwin:

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RESOLVED, That Mr. Charles J. Bell, President of the American Security & Trust Company, be appointed trustee or the Areal Experiment Association to receive and

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distribute the proceeds of the work of the Association in accordance with the articles of agreement of organization and of resolutions of the Association.

A Member: You make the time conditional.

Mr. Bell: During the life of the Association. It is only extended six months. Suppose by good luck— we have got six months before us— and as I said in the last bulletin that the object of the Association was different for this six months. We have been working hitherto purely for the purpose of getting into the air by any means. But the next six months we want to get into the air by new means in order that we might make some new and useful inventions that may be patentable. Now, the next six months we will see if we cannot get in the air in some way in order that, first, some remuneration may come to the members and, secondly, in order that the Association may be perpetuated in some enlarged or improved form through endowment, which would depend on something coming to the Association. So that our object has changed. And I say that although there is no prospect of anything coming, there may be. Now, this is the stage that an individual like Mr. Charles Bell would be just the man to have. But if we get patents or anything of the sort that is of value we should provide some means by which he could transfer that trusteeship to the Company of which he is President. It would be ridiculous to give it to a company now. Now we appoint Mr. Charles Bell trustee. That does not prevent us from appointing someone else as trustee in his place.

(The question being put, the resolution appointing Mr. Charles Bell as trustee of the Association, was unanimously approved, the vote being as follows:

Curtis, aye; McCurdy, aye; Baldwin, aye ; Bell, aye;

Edward A. Selfridge for Thomas E. Selfridge, aye.

Mr. Bell: Is there anything else that requires unanimous action? Of course we can have other meetings of the Association that will allow us to go ahead?

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There is another matter which does not require formal action at all, but I think that the Association would be very glad if Mr. Selfridge would allow it to have possession of the books, pamphlets and works containing aerial locomotion that Lieut. Selfridge had in his possession, during the next six months.

Mr. Selfridge: I do not see why you should not have them.

Mr. Bell: My idea would be that Mr. McCurdy could perhaps go with you and get anything that is of value to the Association.

Mr. Selfridge: He could make a list of them and give me a receipt.

Mr. Bell: Some of these things probably belong to the Association. Mr. McCurdy would be able to tell if, for instance, we are subscribers to all the seafaring and nautical magazines.

There is one other thing, Mr. Selfridge, which occurs to me just now. Lieutenant Selfridge wrote for use of the Association a very remarkable paper on the Progress of Aviation.

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Mr. McCurdy: Could I propose that we might ask Mr. Chanute to look it over?

Mr. E. A. Selfridge gave his consent to the publication by the Association of an article written by Lieutenant Thomas E. Selfridge at Hammondsport, N.Y., and Mr. Chanute has offered to revise it., as to data and references, but not as to the sense of the article.

Mr. Bell: There is another matter, Mr. Selfridge, I am very anxious that Mr. Chanute should have the opportunity of looking over the bulletins of the Association. There are only seven copies. We have not got any here, but Mr. Selfridge's copy is here. If you can lend those bulletins to him he can return them to you.

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I think there is one other thing that might as well be done now and that is to pass a resolution that the official headquarters of the Association be moved to Novescotia on the first of October.

Mr. Curtis: I make a motion that the headwarters be returned to Beinn Bhreagh October 1st. (seconded by Mr. Baldwin.) Carried.

Mr. Bell: I think it will be well now before we adjourn if you will take the names of the persons present at this meeting.

Members of the Association:

Dr. A G. Bell,

F. W. Baldwin,

G. H. Curtis,

J. D. McCurdy.

Non-members:

E. A. Selfridge,

J. S. Selfridge,

S. W. Selfridge,

Octave Chanute

G. H. Bell,

G. H. Grovenor.

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A motion to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair was put and carried.